In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-38 (cancelled).

39. (New) A method for the diafiltration of a product, which comprises the steps of:

(a) providing a product stream that consists of the product;

(b) providing a first fluid stream that consists of a wash fluid that is external to the product;

(c) providing a second fluid stream that comprises a permeate derived from the product itself;

(d) supplying the first and second fluid streams to the product stream in such a way that the product stream is diluted by the two fluid streams;

(e) feeding the product stream diluted with the first and second fluid streams to membrane filtration means; and

(f) adjusting the ratio of the two fluid streams to each other;

wherein permeate from the membrane filtration means is supplied as the second fluid stream.

40. (New) The method in accordance with claim 39, wherein the total amount of fluid supplied by the first and second fluid streams is adjusted.

41. (New) The method in accordance with claim 39, wherein the ratio of the two fluid streams to each other is automatically adjusted in a closed-loop control system as a function of process parameters measured continuously or at intervals.

42. (New) The method in accordance with claim 40, wherein the permeate flow of the membrane filtration means is measured, and the total amount of fluid supplied by the first and

second fluid streams is adjusted as a function of the measured permeate flow.

43. (New) The method in accordance with claim 39, wherein first and second fluid streams are adjusted independently of each other.

44. (New) The method in accordance with claim 39, wherein the product stream is circulated through the membrane filtration means.

45. (New) The method in accordance with claim 39, wherein the pressure on the permeate side of the membrane filtration means is maintained at an essentially constant level, independently of the total amount of fluid or independently of the ratio of the two fluid streams to each other.

46. (New) The method in accordance with claim 39, wherein the product that is being supplied as the product stream has been previously washed in at least one upstream diafiltration process.

47. (New) The method in accordance with claim 46, wherein the permeate is used as the wash fluid in the at least one upstream diafiltration process.

48. (New) The method in accordance with claim 47, wherein, in the upstream diafiltration processes, the amounts of permeate supplied as wash fluid are adjusted, as a function of the amount of permeate produced by the membrane filtration means.

49. (New) The method in accordance with claim 48, wherein the pressure on the permeate side of the membrane filtration means is maintained at a uniform, essentially constant level.

50. (New) The method in accordance with claim 49, wherein the permeate sides of the membrane filtration means used in the upstream diafiltration processes or in all of the

diafiltration processes are connected with one another by connecting lines.

51. (New) The method in accordance with claim 46, wherein at least one additional membrane filtration process, is carried out upstream of the diafiltration process.

52. (New) The method in accordance with claim 39, wherein the product is a fruit juice.

53. (New) The method in accordance with claim 52 wherein the fruit juice is drupe juice, berry juice, citrus juice, pineapple juice, grape juice, apple juice, or pear juice.

54. (New) A device for carrying out the diafiltration of a product, which comprises:

(a) membrane filtration means with a product inlet, a product outlet, and a permeate outlet;

(b) a product supply line for feeding a product stream to the product inlet of the membrane filtration means;

(c) a wash fluid supply line for feeding a wash fluid stream to the product stream;

(d) a permeate supply line for feeding a permeate stream derived from the product itself to the product stream; and

(e) adjusting means for adjusting the ratio of the wash fluid stream and the permeate stream that are fed to the product stream;

wherein the permeate supply line is designed as a permeate return line for returning permeate from the permeate outlet of the membrane filtration means to the product stream.

55. (New) The device in accordance with claim 54, wherein the adjusting means are designed so that the wash fluid and permeate streams that are supplied can be adjusted independently of each other.

56. (New) The device in accordance with claim 55, wherein the adjusting means comprise an automatic control system, with which the total amount of fluid, comprising the amount of wash fluid supplied and the amount of permeate supplied, and/or the ratio of the amount of wash fluid supplied to the amount of permeate supplied can be automatically adjusted or controlled in a closed-loop control system.

57. (New) The device in accordance with claim 54, wherein the product inlet and product outlet of the membrane filtration means are connected by a circulation pump to form a product circulation.

58. (New) The device in accordance with claim 57, which additionally comprises a product feed line for feeding a product stream to the product circulation and a product discharge line for discharging a product stream from the product circulation.

59. (New) The device in accordance with claim 58 wherein the product feed line opens into the product circulation upstream of the product discharge line.

60. (New) The device in accordance with claim 59, wherein the product feed line and the product discharge line are arranged in the product circulation in the region between the product outlet of the membrane filtration means and the circulation pump.

61. (New) The device in accordance with claim 60, wherein the wash fluid feed line opens into the product circulation in the region between the product outlet of the membrane filtration means and the circulation pump.

62. (New) The device in accordance with claim 61, wherein the permeate supply line opens into the product circulation in the region between the product outlet of the filtration means and the circulation pump.

63. (New) The device in accordance with claim 62, wherein the wash fluid supply line and the permeate supply line open into the product stream by two separate openings or by a common opening.

64. (New) The device in accordance with claim 62, wherein the device is designed in such a way that the pressure at the permeate outlet of the filtration means is independent of the amounts of wash fluid and permeate that are supplied, so that a change in these amounts does not cause a change in the pressure at the permeate outlet.

65. (New) The device in accordance with claim 64, wherein a permeate pump is installed in the permeate supply line.

66. (New) The device in accordance with claim 64, wherein a wash fluid pump is installed in the wash fluid supply line.

67. (New) A filtration plant comprising a device in accordance with claim 54.

68. (New) The filtration plant wherein one or more additional diafiltration stages are installed upstream of the device in accordance with claim 54, and wherein the filtration plant is designed in such a way that the additional diafiltration stages can be supplied exclusively with their own permeate and/or permeate of the next downstream diafiltration stage.

69. (New) The filtration plant in accordance with claim 68, wherein the additional diafiltration stages have adjusting means, by which the amounts of permeate fed to the individual stages can be adjusted.

70. (New) The filtration plant in accordance with claim 69, wherein the adjusting means include an automatic control system, with which the given amount of permeate that is supplied can be automatically adjusted.

71. (New) The filtration plant in accordance with claim 68, wherein the pressures on the permeate sides of the membrane filtration means of the additional diafiltration stages are independent of the given amounts of permeate that are supplied, so that a change in these amounts does not result in any significant change in the pressures on the permeate sides of the filtration means.

72. (New) The filtration plant in accordance with claim 68, wherein the permeate sides of the filtration means of the additional diafiltration stages or of all of the diafiltration stages of the filtration plant are connected with one another in such a way that essentially the same pressure exists on the permeate sides of the filtration means during the operation.

73. (New) The filtration plant in accordance with claim 72, wherein the permeate sides of the filtration means of the additional diafiltration stages are each connected with the permeate outlets of the filtration means of the upstream diafiltration stage by permeate pumps.

74. (New) The filtration plant in accordance with claim 68, wherein the plant has nanofiltration, ultrafiltration, and/or microfiltration stages upstream of the diafiltration stages.